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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT NO.		50X1
SUBJECT	Hungarian Police	DATE DISTR.	20 December 1955	
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

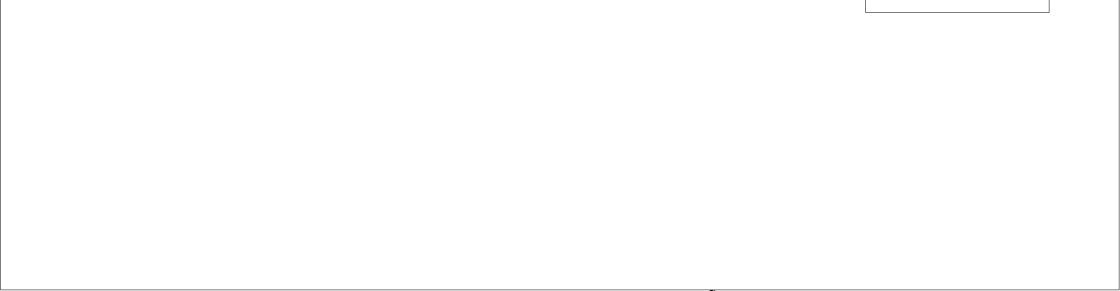
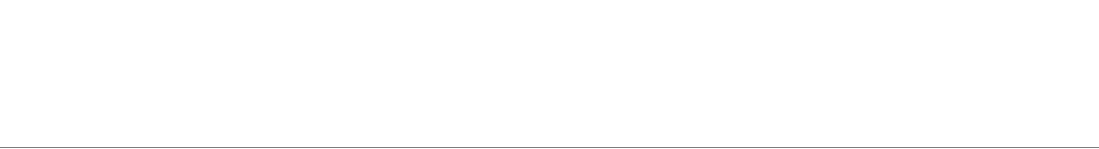
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COUNTRY	Hungary	DATE DISTR.	25 Nov. 1955
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<p>Most EM in the Hungarian police force came from the rural areas. Police authorities preferred to recruit peasant youth for these jobs because they were less spoiled than urban youth. Recruiting campaigns were usually successful because (1) rural youth wanted to escape the miserable conditions of collective farm life to enjoy the many advantages of city life and (2) because the government promised good pay, food, and clothing as well as less physical work than that required of youth on the farms.</p>			
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<p>The Communists preferred to recruit officer members of the police force from the real proletariat, i.e., urban industrial workers, and only required them to be completely devoted to the regime and to keep strict control over the policemen who were of peasant origin; the regime did not trust those of peasant origin and was realistic enough to believe that they would always resist Communism. However, even the trusted police officers, of proletariat origin, occasionally showed sympathy toward the populace instead of the regime.</p>			
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4. Generally, physical and mental strain as well as continual fear of their superiors made individual policemen impatient and tired. The nervous tension made them irritated and, as a result, the police sometimes mistreated the population.
 5. The traffic police in Budapest were both male and female. Source claims that the male police were generally polite, quiet, and indulgent but that the female police were common, loud, and impudent.
 6. The public security in Budapest was very ineffective. At a public school on Köbölkúti utca, the school children were frequently robbed of their coats and watches on their way home from school. The children's parents requested police assistance but were unsuccessful in obtaining it; therefore, it became necessary for the children's parents to take turns in escorting the children to their homes from school, especially during the winter months when the days were short. Allegedly, the policemen were afraid to patrol desolate and poorly-illuminated areas of Budapest after dark.
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